

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

Approved

January 23, 2024

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Scott Walker, Phil Lasker, Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg, Sarah Carrier and Josh Fenollosa. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and ConCom liason Susan Chapnick were also present. Leslie Mayer was not in attendance.

Anticipated Speakers:

Preliminary Matter: Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers and members of the public to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Arlington Reservoir Bench Donation – Elizabeth Durant submitted a gift request to donate and dedicate a bench which will be installed overlooking the water at the Reservoir. The dedication language has been changed to meet approved guidelines.

Permitting of Alcohol Events on Property Under Park Commission Jurisdiction – Mr. Connelly stated that a permitting policy was not needed because existing by-laws prohibit alcohol on the properties. One day permits can be issued but must be approved by the SelectBoard.

- Ms. Canniff - Arlington used to be a “dry town”.
- Mr. Walker – Special consideration for non-profits?
- Ms. Rothenberg – Last revision was in 2015.

No vote or action required by the Commission.

Capital Updates

Robbins Farm Construction

- Project on winter break
- Trying to come up with agreeable solution with slide manufacturer.
- Requesting legal language guidance from Town Counsel's John Lerue - concrete slide liability assurance.
- 14 week wait for equipment. Likely won't arrive by goal of July 4.
- Mr. Lasker – Slide manufacturer needs to submit shop drawings for approval.

Hills Hill MTB

- A couple of trail design options for designer and engineer to review. Meeting within next couple of weeks with design team.
- Will need to go back to CPA to show design to comply with funding condition not to interfere with trees.
- More discussion with Brian McBride over pump track location.

Parallel and Menotomy Designs

Parallel

- Two great designs with positive changes. Budgeting is on track.

Menotomy

- Two designs for public input session on February 8.

- Two draft designs have been sent to ConCom for input.
- Buffer zone concerns are being reviewed.

CPA & Capital

- CPA presentations at 7pm on January 31 for Crosby and Menotomy. Earliest funding available July 1.
- Mr. Connelly will reach out to Representative Sean Garballey for state funding to assist with add/alts.
- Current Capital recommendations in Town Manager's budget –
Parallel - \$600K – FY 25
Field Master Plan - \$85K – FY26
Playground Master Plan - \$100 – FY28 (originally FY27)

Rink Parking Lot Study

- Contract awarded to Stantec.
- Design team being selected and setting up initial meeting. Will gather input from hockey, baseball, soccer etc.
- Will get cost estimates and look to Capital rather than CPA.
- Ms. Canniff – Look at Summer Street traffic light issues. Consult TAC about installing a sensor.
- Mr. Fenollosa – Remove Ryder Street as a public way?
- Mr. Connelly – Look at sidewalk between hill and the bikeway. Parking lot island causes driving and bus turn around issues.

Drake Village Connection

- NOI on February 1 in front of ConCom
- Housing Authority money put toward sidewalk at entrance way at Drake Village. Looking for \$100K in funding to extend sidewalk to Reservoir.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings –

February 8, 2024 public meetings for Menotomy Rocks and Parallel will be held back to back with Menotomy Rocks being held first.

Correspondence Received

Melinda Forest – Email regarding off-leash dogs attacking her and her dog on multiple occasions at Hills Hill/Buck Field. Ms. Forest stressed how fearful they are about walking their leashed dog in the area. The ACO has filed a report and is keeping records.

Approval of Minutes

- 12/12/2023 Tabled
- 1/9/2024 – Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the minutes, as amended, seconded by Mr. Lasker and approved 4-0.

New Business

- a. Artificial Turf Committee Update – Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer represent the Commission on the safety subcommittee. Each subcommittee conducts their own research and shares findings with the committee. The safety committee has looked at abrasions, concussion, ACL/MCL tears, heat illnesses and other mitigating circumstances. The subcommittees are permitted to bring in special guests/experts to support their findings. The committee has requested that all reports be submitted by March 22 to be in time for April's Town Meeting. Ms. Stamps and Mr. Benson have

stated that they will be submitting a warrant article to extend until October. However, working groups are working hard to complete all research in the next two months.

- b. Recreation Department Parmenter School Update – The Recreation offices and all Kid Care programs will be moving forward with the plan to move into the Parmenter School. The SelectBoard supports the move stating there are “no obstacles”.
- Existing programs will be able to increase enrollment and hours. Additional programming for younger age groups/toddlers is being planned.
 - New playground installed last year.
 - Meeting with contractors – flooring, painting, security, parking.
 - The rink offices will begin moving in April, Kid Care Preschool will move over the summer and Kid Care Afterschool will follow in September. The rink and office space will be reorganized as well to allow for party rooms and dedicated locker rooms for the high school teams. Any construction/improvements will be contracted by the Recreation Department.

Public Comment – N/A

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 7:56pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 4-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.